

WBCCC Steering Group Meeting

Wednesday 6 October 2021

Present:

Jim Taylor, Phil Brown, Pete Hudson, Graham Cooper, Allan Finch, Paul Boffey, Jules Trigg, Mike Orrell (Wigan Council).

1. Apologies for absence.

Paul Broad, Dave Holden, Phil and Sue Bradley, Jim Heyes, Allan Ricketts, Clive Chatterton.

2. Minutes from 22 July 2021

The minutes of the zoom steering group meeting on 22 July 2021 were agreed. It was noted that the minute relating to the previous meeting on 30 March 2021 needed to be amended as the minute contained a wrong date.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting that would not be covered on the agenda.

4. Mike Orrell, Project Delivery Manager, Wigan Council

Mike Orrell introduced himself and explained his role in delivering cycling and walking improvements within the Wigan borough. He provided the group with updates on current cycling improvement schemes which included Wallgate and Saddle Junction. He recognised that the cycle route through the Saddle Junction into Wigan is not clearly marked and indicated that this would be addressed. He also stated that the Wallgate scheme would include the demarcation of a cycle lane under Wallgate bridge to protect cyclists emerging into traffic from the cycle lane when entering Wigan.

He also outlined plans for future schemes including:

- Canal towpath improvements from DW Stadium to Appley Bridge expected to commence in Spring 2022. He also indicated that West Lancs Council plan to extend the towpath improvements through to Parbold.**

- Plans to upgrade a section of Standish Wood Lane.
- Consultations to extend the Standish Mineral Line cycle/walkway through to the M6 junction.
- Plans to introduce a separated cycleway on St Helens Road, Leigh.

Mike was keen to obtain our views on potential cycling improvement schemes for the future. We highlighted several including the Devil's Backbone, NCN Route 55 between Westleigh Lane and the "pig sty" road, Bamfurlong Bridge and the canal towpath leading up to Red Rock. Mike encouraged us to write to him with any ideas we have for cycling schemes. He also said he would welcome comments, positive or negative, about existing schemes. Members can send any comments or ideas for schemes to Phil Brown who will collate them and we will then submit them to Mike. Mike also said that he would join us on a Tuesday or Thursday ride to examine some of the places that we put forward for potential future schemes.

Action: Members and Phil Brown

Jim thanked Mike Orrell and he left the meeting.

5. Communication with Members

The group considered a paper produced by Jules which summarised the range of methods that the Club is currently using to communicate with members. We use email, the website, Facebook Members Page, WhatsApp Member Group and WhatsApp Social Member Group. Paul pointed out that usage of the website had been minimal during the last couple of years and questioned whether it was worthwhile retaining the website. It was recognised, however, that the website offers a route to the group for anyone looking to join a cycling club.

After a lengthy debate when various options were explored it was agreed that:

- We will revert the WhatsApp group to its original purpose i.e. to be used as an urgent contact to issue messages about ride cancellations/changes, a Member stuck in traffic etc.
- All ride descriptions and invites, including details of the Tuesday and Thursday rides, will be posted on the Facebook Members Page and copied onto the website. Paul and John Bower will continue to monitor the Facebook Members Page for ride descriptions. Graham and Jules offered to be trained to enable them to also carry out this function.

Action: Ride Leaders, Allan Ricketts, Paul Boffey, John Bower, Graham Cooper, Jules Trigg.

The discussion then moved to the tasks involved in preparing for the monthly rides. It was decided that the Club should produce a risk assessment that should contain enough information to cover all our rides, whether local or otherwise. Allan Finch and Graham Cooper undertook to examine our current generic Risk Assessment with a view to producing a new one that would cover the needs of the Club.

Action: Allan Finch and Graham Cooper

It was also noted that the new ride calendar is not currently displayed on the website. Paul will resolve this issue. It was also agreed that we should seek to change the website domain name from Trails4us.co.uk to WBCCC.co.uk as the cost would be relatively small. Paul agreed to ask his son, Mike, to seek to purchase the new domain name. Phil to provide the finance.

Action: Paul Boffey/Phil Brown

Finally, it was suggested that the monthly rides should be placed on the Facebook Members Group and the website 2 weeks prior to the ride date in order that members have sufficient notice of the date. A reminder could then be issued a few days before the ride.

Action: Allan Ricketts

6. Finance Update

Phil reported that the Club finances are in a strong position with over £900 in the bank and a further £600 expected following 12 members volunteering to marshal on the recent Bolton Ironman event. There are no immediate liabilities other than those arising from the meeting.

7. Membership Review

The Steering Group decided not to undertake the annual membership review in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. It was agreed that it would now be appropriate to undertake the 2021 review. Pete will provide Sue with a list of riders who have not cycled since the last review in 2019. Sue will then email those members to establish whether they wish to retain their membership.

Action: Pete Hudson and Sue Bradley

8. Back Markers Rota

The group considered that it would not be feasible to introduce a back markers rota. It was decided that ride leaders should continue to encourage all riders to occasionally take a turn at back marking to help the Club and not leave it to the same regular volunteers. It was pointed out that the radios are

quite easy to use and guidance will be provided. The lack of ride leaders was also discussed. It was agreed that we should encourage members to have a go at this role. There are lots of local GPX rides recorded on the club's Google Drive and GPX's can be downloaded onto a range of devices. Graham pointed out that numerous members have knowledge of different devices and members only need to ask if they need advice or support. Jim and Phil would be happy to provide support to any Member who decides to lead a ride.

Action: Ride Leaders and Members

9. Ride Calendar

The Steering Group was pleased to note that Allan Ricketts had produced a ride calendar for the next 12 months. Members are advised to check the ride calendar on the website and note the dates in their diaries.

Action: Members

10. WBCCC Cycling Jersey

Jim asked the views of those present on whether the Club should look to introduce a Club cycling jersey. Those present were in favour but felt that it needed to be of a good design and quality. Pete agreed to speak to Margaret Green, who now rides with Breeze, to obtain further information about their cycling jersey. We will then decide whether to canvas members to establish how many would be interested before we decide whether to proceed.

Action: Pete Hudson

11. Any other business

There was no other business to discuss. Jim thanked Jules for attending and providing the information that helped the group to determine a way forward in communicating with members. Jules had also raised the ongoing issue of how to encourage more leaders and back markers.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is to be agreed. However, it was agreed that with effect from the current meeting the Club should donate £20 to Highfield Parish Hall for the use of their meeting room.